

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

Mahmoud KHALIL,

Petitioner,

v.

Donald J. TRUMP, in his official capacity as President of the United States; William P. JOYCE, in his official capacity as Acting Field Office Director of New York, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Yolanda PITTMAN, in her official capacity as Warden of Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility; Caleb VITELLO, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Kristi NOEM, in her official capacity as Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security; Marco RUBIO, in his official capacity as Secretary of State; and Pamela BONDI, in her official capacity as Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice,

Respondents.

Case No. 25-cv-01963
(MEF-MAH)

~~REDACTED~~ ORDER

Petitioner having moved to seal its June 4, 2025 filing at ECF 281, the Court makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to Local Civil Rule 5.3(c):

1. Motions to seal are governed by Local Civil Rule R.3(c), which requires the moving party to describe: (a) the nature of the materials or proceedings at issue; (b) the legitimate private or public interest which warrants the relief sought; (c) the clearly defined and serious injury that would result if the relief sought is not granted; (d) why a less restrictive alternative to the relief sought is not available; (e) any prior order sealing the same materials in the pending action; and (f) the identity of any party or nonparty known to be objecting to the sealing request.

2. On April June 4, 2025, counsel for Mr. Khalil filed the Declaration of Veronica Salama and attached exhibits with the Court under seal. ECF 281.

3. The following day, on June 5, 2025, counsel for Mr. Khalil filed a publicly available version of the Declaration of Veronica Salama and attached exhibits with appropriate and narrowly tailored redactions. ECF 284.

4. Public disclosure of the redacted information would cause serious injury to Mr. Khalil as well as certain of his supporters whose names and identifying information appear in the sealed filings. Public disclosure of Mr. Khalil's A-number and sensitive medical information would disseminate confidential information and undermine his privacy rights and interests. Public disclosure of identifying information of non-party supporters would similarly compromise their safety and privacy and subject them to potential harassment and negative professional consequences.

5. Because the documents are relevant to the issues raised in the underlying Petition and because Petitioner has publicly filed versions of the documents with carefully limited and tailored redactions, a less restrictive alternative to sealing the records is not available.

6. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2(d) permits a court to order a filing be made under seal or in redacted form. Such an order is appropriate when a moving party demonstrates "good cause" for restricting public access through "a particularized showing that disclosure will cause a 'clearly defined and serious injury.'" *Medley v. Atl. Exposition Servs., Inc.*, 550 F. Supp. 3d 170, 203 (D.N.J. 2021); *see also In re Cendant Corp.*, 260 F.3d 183, 192 (3d Cir. 2001).

7. The Court finds that good cause exists to seal the documents at issue under the considerations set forth in *Pansy v. Borough of Stroudsburg*, 23 F.3d 772 (3d Cir. 1994) and

Local Civil Rule 5.3(c). The Court therefore permits the requested documents to be maintained under seal.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 24th day of June, 2025.

SO ORDERED

s/Michael A. Hammer

Michael A. Hammer, U.S.M.J.

Date: 6/24/25